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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
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2003-2004 Waterfowl Regulation Summary

License Year July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004

This summary is provided in lieu of a Waterfowl Regulation Booklet. All laws or regulations contained in this summary have been adapted from the Fish and Game Code or from Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, as adopted by the Fish and Game Commission under authority of the Fish and Game Code. **HUNTERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST COMPLY WITH ALL OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS, INCLUDING METHODS OF TAKE AND SHOOTING HOURS. PLEASE REFER TO COMPLETE REGULATION DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/regs.html, OR CONTACT A DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION: License and Revenue Branch** (Sacramento), (916) 227-2245
Headquarters (Sacramento), (916) 445-3406
Regional Offices: Redding, (530) 225-2300; Rancho Cordova, (916) 358-2900; Napa, (707) 944-5500; Fresno, (559) 243-4005; San Diego, (858) 467-4201; Chino Hills, (909) 597-9823

Alternate communication format is available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed call the Fish and Game Commission, (916) 653-4899, fgc@dfg.ca.gov or the California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at (800) 735-2929.

Waterfowl Seasons, Bag and Possession Limits, 2003 – 2004 (from §502.)

AREA	Species	Seasons	Daily Bag & Possession limits
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent with duck season	25/day. 25 in possession singly or in the aggregate .
	Black Brant	Nov 10 - Dec 9	2/day. Possession limits double the daily bag.
Northeastern Zone	Ducks	Oct 11 - Dec 9 & Dec 12 - Jan 25	7/day, no more than 2 hen mallards, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Oct 11 - Nov 30 & Jan 17 - Jan 25	
	Canvasback	Oct 11 - Dec 9	
	Geese	Oct 11 - Jan 18	3/day, no more than 2 dark geese of which no more than 1 may be a small Canada goose. Possession limits double the daily bag.
Balance of State AND Southern San Joaquin Valley Zones	Ducks	Oct 18 - Nov 19 & Nov 21 - Jan 25	7/day, no more than 2 hen mallards, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Oct 18 - Oct 26 & Dec 6 - Jan 25	
	Canvasback	Nov 27 - Jan 25	
	Geese	Nov 1 - Jan 25	3/day, no more than 2 dark geese of which no more than 1 may be a small Canada goose. Possession limits double the daily bag.
Southern California Zone	Ducks	Oct 18 - Jan 25	7/day, no more than 2 hen mallards, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail & Canvasback	Nov 27 - Jan 25	
	Geese	Oct 18 - Jan 25	5/day, up to 3 white geese, or 3 dark geese, of which no more than 1 may be a small Canada goose. Possession limits double the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone	Ducks	Oct 17 - Jan 25	7/day, no more than 2 hen mallards or Mexican-like ducks, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail & Canvasback	Nov 27 - Jan 25	
	Geese	Oct 17 - Jan 25	6/day, no more than 3 dark geese or 3 white geese. Possession limits double the daily bag.
Special Area Regulations	Species	Season	Daily Bag and Possession limits
North Coast	Canada geese	Nov 8 - Nov 23	1/day, possession limits double the daily bag .
South Humboldt Bay	All species	Closed Nov 10 - Dec 9	
Sacramento Valley (west)	White-fronted geese	Closed after Dec 14	
Sacramento Valley (east)	Canada geese	Closed	
Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated areas	
Martis Lake	All species	Closed until Nov 16	
Imperial County	White geese	Jan 26 - Feb 1	3/day, possession limits double the daily bag.

Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for migratory game birds, including mourning doves, white-winged doves, band-tailed pigeons, American coots, common moorhens, common snipe (jacksnipe), and waterfowl for all of California shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. **Exception:** In areas open to hunting on, over or adjacent to the waters of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, the shooting time shall be from 8:00 a.m. to sunset at location of hunter.

2003-2004 Shooting Hours - Northern California													
		Eureka		Tulelake		Colusa		San Fran.		Sacto.		Los Banos	
MO.	DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Sept	1	6:13	7:49	6:01	7:41	6:06	7:39	6:09	7:39	6:05	7:36	6:05	7:32
Sept	6	6:18	7:41	6:06	7:32	6:10	7:31	6:14	7:32	6:09	7:29	6:09	7:25
Sept	13	6:25	7:29	6:14	7:19	6:17	7:20	6:20	7:21	6:15	7:18	6:14	7:15
Sept	20	6:32	7:18	6:20	7:07	6:24	7:09	6:25	7:10	6:22	7:07	6:20	7:04
Sept	27	6:39	7:06	6:28	6:54	6:30	6:57	6:31	6:59	6:28	6:55	6:25	6:54
Oct	4	6:46	6:54	6:36	6:42	6:36	6:47	6:38	6:49	6:34	6:45	6:31	6:43
Oct	11	6:53	6:43	6:43	6:31	6:43	6:36	6:44	6:38	6:41	6:34	6:37	6:33
Oct	18	7:01	6:32	6:51	6:20	6:51	6:25	6:51	6:28	6:48	6:24	6:44	6:24
Oct	25	7:09	6:22	6:59	6:10	6:58	6:15	6:58	6:19	6:55	6:15	6:50	6:15
Oct*	26	6:10	5:21	6:00	5:08	5:59	5:14	5:59	5:18	5:56	5:13	5:51	5:14
Nov	1	6:17	5:13	6:08	5:00	6:05	5:07	6:05	5:11	6:02	5:06	5:57	5:07
Nov	8	6:25	5:05	6:16	4:52	6:13	4:59	6:12	5:04	6:10	4:59	6:04	5:00
Nov	15	6:33	4:59	6:24	4:46	6:21	4:53	6:20	4:59	6:18	4:53	6:12	4:55
Nov	22	6:42	4:54	6:33	4:40	6:29	4:49	6:27	4:54	6:25	4:49	6:19	4:51
Nov	29	6:49	4:50	6:41	4:37	6:37	4:46	6:34	4:52	6:33	4:46	6:26	4:48
Dec	6	6:56	4:49	6:48	4:35	6:43	4:45	6:41	4:51	6:39	4:45	6:32	4:47
Dec	13	7:02	4:49	6:54	4:35	6:49	4:45	6:46	4:51	6:45	4:45	6:38	4:48
Dec	20	7:07	4:52	6:59	4:38	6:54	4:48	6:51	4:54	6:50	4:48	6:42	4:51
Dec	27	7:10	4:56	7:02	4:42	6:57	4:52	6:54	4:58	6:53	4:52	6:45	4:55
Jan	3	7:11	5:01	7:03	4:47	6:58	4:57	6:56	5:03	6:54	4:57	6:47	5:00
Jan	10	7:11	5:08	7:02	4:54	6:58	5:04	6:55	5:10	6:54	5:04	6:47	5:06
Jan	17	7:08	5:16	6:59	5:02	6:56	5:11	6:53	5:17	6:52	5:11	6:45	5:13
Jan	24	7:04	5:24	6:56	5:11	6:52	5:19	6:50	5:24	6:48	5:19	6:42	5:21
Jan	25	7:03	5:25	6:54	5:12	6:51	5:20	6:49	5:25	6:47	5:20	6:41	5:22
Jan	31	6:58	5:33	6:49	5:20	6:46	5:27	6:45	5:32	6:43	5:27	6:37	5:28

2003-2004 Shooting Hours - Southern California													
		Paso Robles		Kern		Bishop		LA		San Diego		Imperial	
MO.	DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Sept	1	6:06	7:32	5:58	7:24	5:54	7:23	5:56	7:19	5:53	7:14	5:44	7:05
Sept	6	6:10	7:25	6:03	7:17	5:58	7:15	6:00	7:12	5:56	7:07	5:47	6:58
Sept	13	6:15	7:14	6:07	7:06	6:04	7:05	6:05	7:03	6:01	6:58	5:53	6:50
Sept	20	6:20	7:04	6:12	6:56	6:09	6:54	6:09	6:53	6:05	6:48	5:57	6:40
Sept	27	6:26	6:54	6:18	6:46	6:15	6:43	6:14	6:43	6:10	6:39	6:02	6:31
Oct	4	6:30	6:43	6:23	6:36	6:21	6:33	6:19	6:33	6:15	6:30	6:08	6:23
Oct	11	6:36	6:34	6:29	6:27	6:28	6:22	6:25	6:24	6:20	6:21	6:13	6:14
Oct	18	6:42	6:24	6:35	6:17	6:34	6:13	6:30	6:15	6:25	6:12	6:18	6:05
Oct	25	6:48	6:16	6:41	6:09	6:41	6:04	6:36	6:07	6:30	6:05	6:24	5:59
Oct*	26	5:49	5:15	5:42	5:08	5:42	5:03	5:37	5:06	5:31	5:04	5:25	4:58
Nov	1	5:55	5:09	5:48	5:02	5:48	4:56	5:42	5:00	5:36	4:58	5:30	4:52
Nov	8	6:01	5:02	5:54	4:55	5:55	4:49	5:49	4:54	5:42	4:52	5:36	4:46
Nov	15	6:08	4:57	6:01	4:50	6:03	4:43	5:55	4:49	5:49	4:48	5:43	4:42
Nov	22	6:15	4:53	6:08	4:46	6:10	4:39	6:02	4:46	5:55	4:44	5:49	4:38
Nov	29	6:22	4:51	6:15	4:44	6:17	4:36	6:08	4:44	6:01	4:43	5:55	4:37
Dec	6	6:28	4:50	6:21	4:43	6:23	4:35	6:14	4:43	6:07	4:42	6:01	4:36
Dec	13	6:33	4:51	6:26	4:44	6:29	4:36	6:20	4:45	6:12	4:44	6:07	4:38
Dec	20	6:38	4:54	6:32	4:47	6:33	4:39	6:24	4:47	6:16	4:46	6:11	4:40
Dec	27	6:41	4:58	6:34	4:51	6:37	4:43	6:27	4:51	6:20	4:50	6:14	4:44
Jan	3	6:43	5:03	6:36	4:56	6:38	4:48	6:29	4:56	6:21	4:55	6:16	4:49
Jan	10	6:43	5:09	6:36	5:02	6:38	4:54	6:29	5:02	6:22	5:01	6:16	4:55
Jan	17	6:41	5:16	6:34	5:09	6:36	5:01	6:28	5:09	6:21	5:07	6:15	5:01
Jan	24	6:38	5:23	6:31	5:16	6:33	5:09	6:25	5:15	6:18	5:14	6:12	5:08
Jan	25	6:38	5:24	6:31	5:17	6:32	5:10	6:25	5:16	6:18	5:15	6:12	5:09
Jan	31	6:34	5:30	6:27	5:23	6:28	5:17	6:21	5:22	6:14	5:20	6:08	5:14

* Daylight Savings Time changes to Standard Time

§ 502. Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot and Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule)

YOUTH HUNTING DAYS REGULATIONS

(NOTE: Youth hunters must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.)

(A) Species

Ducks (including Mergansers), American Coot, Common Moorhen, Black Brant, Geese

(B) Season

1. **Northeastern California Zone** : The last weekend in September (Sep 27 & 28).

2. **Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone** : The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days (Jan 31 & Feb 1).

3. **Southern California Zone** : The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days (Jan 31 & Feb 1).

4. **Colorado River Zone** : The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season (Jan 31).

5. **Balance of State Zone** : The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days (Jan 31 & Feb 1).

(C) Daily Bag Limits

Same as regular season, including canvasback and pintail.

Falconry Take of Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coots, and Common Moorhens.

(1) Statewide Provisions

(A) Species

Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen.

(B) Season

1. **Northeastern California Zone** . Open concurrently with duck season and extending for 105 days.

2. **Balance of State Zone** . Open concurrently with duck season and extending for 107 days.

3. **Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone** . Open concurrently with duck season and extending for 107 days.

4. **Southern California Zone** . Open concurrently with goose season and extending for 107 days.

5. **Colorado River Zone** . Concurrent with duck season and from Jan 26-30, 2004. Goose hunting in this zone by means of falconry is not permitted. Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona, where goose hunting by means of falconry is not permitted.

(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits

Daily bag limit: 3

Daily bag limit makeup: Either all of 1 species or a mixture of species allowed for take.

Possession limit: 6

License Provisions for Hunting Waterfowl

All waterfowl hunters must have a valid California hunting license in their possession while taking any migratory waterfowl. Any adult hunter, 16 years of age or older, is required to have a state and federal duck stamp in their possession to take migratory waterfowl. The state duck stamp must be affixed to the hunter's license, and the federal duck stamp must be signed. All licenses, stamps, gear, and waterfowl taken must be shown on request.

Definitions

(1) **Dark geese** . Dark geese include Canada geese, cackling geese, Aleutian geese and white-fronted geese ("specklebelly").

(2) **Large Canada geese** . Canada geese include western Canada geese ("honker") and lesser Canada geese ("lessers").

(3) **Small Canada geese** . Small (about the size of a mallard) Canada geese include cackling geese and Aleutian geese. Both are white-cheeked geese nearly identical in appearance to Large Canada geese. Aleutian geese have a thin white neck ring and Cackling geese have dark breasts. Both species have a high-pitched cackle as opposed to the deeper "honking".

(4) **White geese** . White geese include Ross' geese and snowgeese.

Waterfowl Hunting Zones

(1) **Northeastern California Zone**: In that portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of the Klamath River with the California-Oregon line; south and west along the Klamath River to the mouth of Shovel Creek; along Shovel Creek to its intersection with Forest Service Road 46N05 at Burnt Camp; west to its junction with Forest Service Road 46N10; south and east to its Junction with County Road 7K007; south and west to its junction with Forest Service Road 45N22; south and west to its junction with Highway 97 and Grass Lake Summit; south along to its junction with Interstate 5 at the town of Weed; south to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to main street Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada state line; north along the California-Nevada state line to the junction of the California-Nevada-Oregon state lines west along the California-Oregon line state to the point of origin.

(2) **Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone**: All of Kings and Tulare counties and that portion of Kern County north of the Southern California Zone.

(3) **Southern California Zone**: In that portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River Zone) lying south and east of a line beginning at the mouth of the Santa Maria River at the Pacific Ocean; east along the Santa Maria River to where it crosses Highway 166 near the City of Santa Maria; east on Highway 166 to the junction with Highway 99; south on Highway 99 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to where it intersects Highway 178 at Walker Pass; east on Highway 178 to the junction of Highway 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on Highway 395 to the junction of Highway 58; east on Highway 58 to the junction of Interstate 15; east on Interstate 15 to the junction with Highway 127; north on Highway 127 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada state line.

(4) **Colorado River Zone**: In those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial counties lying east of the following lines: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 95 with the California-Nevada state line; south along Highway 95 to Vidal Junction; south through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino-Riverside county line on a road known as "Aqueduct Road" in San Bernardino County; south from the San Bernardino-Riverside county line on road known in Riverside County as the "Desert Center to Rice Road" to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on Interstate 10 to its intersection with the Wiley Well Road; south on this road to Wiley Well; southeast along the Army-Milpitas Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on the Blythe-Brawley paved road to its intersection with the Ogilby and Tumco Mine Road; south on this road to Highway 80; east seven miles on Highway 80 to its intersection with the Andrade-Algodones Road; south on this paved road to the intersection of the Mexican boundary line at Algodones, Mexico.

(5) **Balance of State Zone**: That portion of the state not included in Northeastern California, Southern California, Colorado River or the Southern San Joaquin Valley zones.

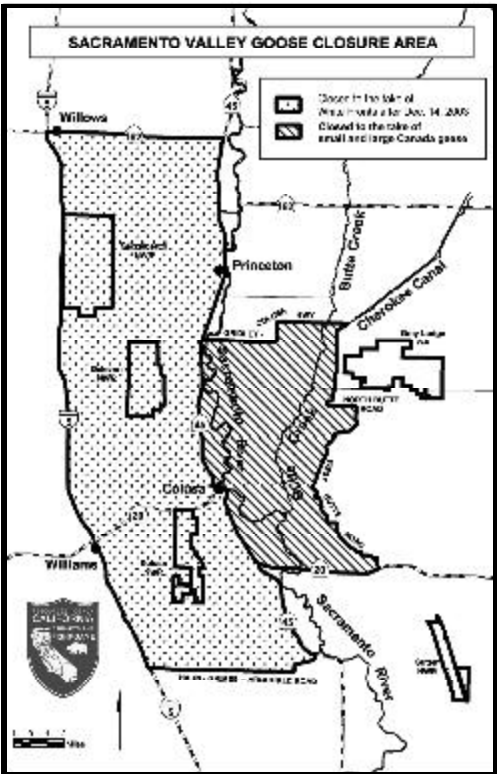
Special Management Area Descriptions

1. **North Coast** . All of Del Norte and Humboldt counties.

2. **Humboldt Bay (South)** . Beginning at the intersection of the north boundary of Table Bluff County Park and the South Jetty Road; north along the South Jetty Road to the South Jetty; west along the South Jetty to the mean low water line of the Pacific Ocean; south along mean water line to its intersection with the north boundary of the Table Bluff County Park; east along the north boundary of the Table Bluff County Park to the point of origin.

3. **Sacramento Valley West** . Beginning at the town of Willows; south on Interstate 5 to the junction with Hahn Road; east on Hahn Road and the Grimes-Arbuckle Road to the town of Grimes; north on Highway 45 to its junction with Highway 162; north on Highway 45-162 to the town of Glenn; west on Highway 162 to the point of beginning.

4. **Sacramento Valley (East)** . Beginning at the junction of the Gridley-Colusa Highway and the Cherokee Canal; west on the Gridley-Colusa Highway to Gould Road; west on Gould Road and due west 0.75 miles directly to Highway 45; south on Highway 45 to Highway 20; east on Highway 20 to West Butte Road; north on West Butte Road to Pass Road; west on Pass Road to West Butte Road; north on West Butte Road to North Butte Road; west on North Butte Road and due west 0.5 miles directly to the Cherokee Canal; north on the Cherokee Canal to the point of beginning.



5. **Morro Bay** . Beginning at a point where the high tide line intersects the Sate Park boundary west of Cuesta by the Sea; northeasterly to a point 200 yards offshore of the high tide line at the end of Mitchell Drive in Baywood Park; northeasterly to a point 200 yards offshore of the high tide line west of the Morro Bay State Park Boundary, adjacent to Baywood Park; north to a point 300 yards south of the high tide line at the end of White Point; north along a line 400 yards offshore of the south boundary of the Morro Bay City limit to a point adjacent to Fairbanks Point; northwesterly to the high tide line on the sand spit; southerly along the high tide line of the sand spit to the south end of Morro Bay; easterly along the Park boundary at the high tide line to the beginning point.

6. **Martis Creek Lake** .The waters and shoreline of Martis Creek Lake, Placer and Nevada counties.

7. **Imperial County** . Beginning at Highway 86 and the Navy Test Base Road; south on Highway 86 to the town of Westmoreland; continue through the town of Westmoreland to Route S26; east on Route S26 to Highway 115; north on highway 115 to Weist Rd.; north on Weist Rd. to Flowing Wells Rd.; northeast on Flowing Wells Rd. to the Coachella Canal; northwest on the Coachella Canal to Drop 18; a straight line from Drop 18 to Frink Rd.; south on Frink Rd. to Highway 111; north on Highway 111 to Niland Marina Rd.; southwest on Niland Marina Rd. to the old Imperial County boat ramp and the water line of the Salton Sea; from the water line of the Salton Sea, a straight line across the Salton Sea to the Salinity Control Research Facility and the Navy Test Base Road; southwest on the Navy Test Base Road to the point of beginning.

§ 507. Provisions Related to the Taking of Migratory Game Birds.

(a) **Authorized Methods** . Only the following methods may be used to take migratory game birds:

(1) **Falconry** .

(2) **Bow and Arrows or Crossbows** . Only arrows or crossbows bolts with flu- flu fletching may be used except that conventionally fletched arrows may be used to take waterfowl sitting on the water from scullboats or similar watercraft. Archers hunting during any archery season may not possess a firearm while in the field engaged in archery hunting.

(3) **Muzzle-loading Shotguns** .

(4) **Shotguns 10 Gauge or Smaller** . Shotguns 10 gauge or smaller using shot shells only and incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined may be used, except no shotgun larger than 12 gauge shall be used in areas open to hunting on, over or adjacent to the waters of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County. If a plug is used to reduce the capacity of a magazine to fulfill the requirements of this section, the plug must be of one piece construction incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. Shotgun shells may not be used or possessed that contain shot size larger than No. BB in lead or T shot in steel or other nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All shot shall be loose in the shell.

(b) **Use of Dogs** . Dogs may be used to take and retrieve migratory game birds.

(c) **Prohibition on Electronic or Mechanically-operated Devices** . Electronic or mechanically-operated calling or sound-reproducing devices are prohibited when attempting to take migratory game birds. It is unlawful to use electronic or mechanically-operated spinning blade devices or spinning wing decoys when attempting to take waterfowl between the start of waterfowl season and Nov 30. For the purposes of this regulation, wind-powered spinning blade devices and kites are not prohibited.


(d) **Live Decoy Prohibition** . The use of live decoys is prohibited when attempting to take migratory game birds.

§ 507.1. Nontoxic Shot Requirement for Waterfowl, American Coot and Common Moorhen Hunting.

Only steel, nickel-plated steel, copper-plated steel, zinc chromate-plated steel, zinc chloride-plated steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten matrix, tungsten polymer, tungsten iron, tungsten-nickel-iron or other nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be used or possessed for waterfowl, American coot and common moorhen hunting statewide.



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